

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 were pending when last examined, all of which stand rejected.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,798,150 to Moon (“Moon”).

Independent Claim 1 is patentable over Moon at least because it recites that “at least one of the first, second, third, and fourth electrode connectors have a rod-shape.” As described in the Application (e.g., see FIG. 3), the electrode connectors (401, 402, 403, 404) are straight rods that connect the lamp electrodes. In contrast, Moon discloses electrical wires or PCBs as connecting the electrodes (Moon, paragraph 60). As moon does not teach a rod-shaped electrode connector, Claim 1 is patentable over Moon.

Claim 2 depends from Claim 1 and is therefore patentable over Moon for at least the same reason as Claim 1.

Independent Claim 4 is patentable over Moon at least because it recites that “at least one of the plurality of electrode connectors has a rod shape” As explained above in reference to Claim 1, Moon does not teach a straight, rod-shaped electrode connector. Rather, Moon uses a PCB or an electrical wire to connect the electrodes of different lamps. Thus, Claim 4 is patentable over Moon.

Claim 5 depends from Claim 4 and is therefore patentable over Moon for at least the same reason as Claim 4.

Claim 7 depends from either Claim 1 or Claim 4, and is therefore patentable over Moon for at least the same reason that Claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Moon.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon. Claims 3 and 6 depend from Claims 1 and 4, which recite an electrode connector having a rod shape. As Moon does not teach or suggest using a rod-shaped electrode connector to connect its lamp electrodes, Moon does not disclose all the elements of Claims 3 and 6. Hence, Claims 3 and 6 are patentable over Moon.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,953,003 to Kwon et al. (“Kwon”).

Independent Claim 8 is patentable over Moon and Kwon because it recites that “at least one of the first, second, third, and fourth electrode connectors [has] a rod shape.” As explained above, Moon does not teach or suggest using a rod-shaped electrode connector. Kwon does not disclose or suggest connecting the electrodes with a rod-shaped connector either. Thus, Claim 8 is patentable over Moon and Kwon.

Claim 9 depends from Claim 8 and is patentable over Moon and Kwon at least for the same reason as Claim 8.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon and Kwon. Claim 10 depends from Claim 8 and is patentable over Moon and Kwon for the same reason as Claim 8.

Conclusion

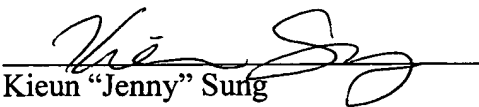
For the foregoing reasons, Claims 1-10 are now in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney at (408) 392-9250.

Any fee due for this Amendment may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2257.

Respectfully Submitted,

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